

MONTANA TEEN DRIVER CURRICULUM 2.0 GUIDE
Lesson Plan & Teacher Commentary

Module 2.1 – Preparing to Drive

Lesson Objective (from *Essential Knowledge and Skills Topics*):

Identifying Vehicle Gauges, Alert and Warning Symbols

The student is expected to locate and describe the function of alert and warning symbols, and gauges found in a:

- (a) driver education vehicle; and
- (b) another vehicle.

Operating Vehicle Control Devices

The student is expected to identify, describe, and demonstrate the location, function, and operation of:

- (a) vehicle control devices found in a driver education vehicle;
- (b) vehicle control devices found in another vehicle;
- (c) safety, communication, and convenience devices found in a driver education vehicle; and
- (d) safety, communication, and convenience devices found in another vehicle.

Preparing to Drive

The student is expected to describe and demonstrate:

- (a) the purpose and use of a vehicle owner's manual;
- (b) pre-entry tasks made around the vehicle prior to entering the vehicle;
- (c) entry into the vehicle tasks;
- (d) seating, steering wheel (if adjustable), and restraint adjustments made prior to starting and moving a motor vehicle;
- (e) traditional mirror adjustments made prior to starting and moving a motor vehicle;
- (f) enhanced side view mirror (GBE) settings to reduce mirror blind spots and eliminate glare; and
- (g) securing and exiting tasks after stopping a motor vehicle.

Materials Needed:

1. Module 2.1 PowerPoint Presentation
2. Module 2.1 Fact and Work Sheets, Pre-Drive Checklist (printed out)
3. Module 2.1 PEPs
4. Module 2.1 Teacher Commentary (printed out)

Module 2.1 Teacher Commentary

This teacher commentary can be used in conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation for this module. The module slide images are provided to allow you to connect the materials, data, and questions with the presentation.

Slide 2 – Preparing to Drive Questions

This module is about developing positive habits that help set the stage for driving. Most novice drivers don't know what to do, how to do it, when to do it and why they should do it every time they get into a car. In various versions of driver education curriculum this stage is known as uniting driver and vehicle.

Rationale for having this algorithm is:

1. Understanding that there are times when it is not safe to drive.
2. Systematically approaching the vehicle
3. Systematically searching around and through the vehicle
4. Entering the vehicle the same way every time with the same procedures
5. Systematically making adjustments to seat and mirrors before every drive
6. Before every drive, every time, put your seatbelts on.

Understand what the startup icons mean on the dash.

Preparing to Drive Questions

- What do I need to know and what should I do to get ready to drive?
- Why should I and all my passengers wear seatbelts in my car or pickup?

Slide 3 – Before You Leave the House

- Every drive should start with planning—planning your destination and your route.
- And notify someone, parent, family member, friend where you are going, what your route is, when you expect to get there and when you anticipate when you will get home. That way, if you get lost, have a breakdown or get stuck in the snow and become overdue people will know where to start looking.
- Gas money is important for obvious reasons and more important when you are leaving to go for some distance away from the house
- Questions you might ask:
 - Why is it important to know your destination and route you are going to take before you leave the house?
 - Why should you tell someone the details of your trip?
 - Why should you check the weather along with the road conditions?

Before You Leave the House

- Destination
- Decide your route
- Let someone know
- Check
 - Wallet or purse
 - Gas money
 - Weather and road conditions



Slide 4 – Never Drives

- Ask the students to work in groups of two or three and generate a list of situations they should never drive in.
- Discuss why they came up with their list.
- What about if they were a passenger in car with someone who was drinking and driving, emotional etc.
- How can they change the outcome of that situation?

**Slide 5 – Approach [Allow yellow circles to appear.]**

- Approaching the vehicle is about situational awareness. Awareness of what is around, under, and inside the vehicle. Always check in front and behind your vehicle for things that you might run over. Family members such as little brothers and sisters can be behind your car or leave their toys, bikes, and other things.
- See what's there that might be in your way. See if there are any fluids on the ground and see if the tires are inflated and ready to roll.

**Slide 6 – Prepare**

Move the items and put them where they won't be in your way in the future. Believe it or not, parents really like it when you put things in where they won't be a problem for other family members.

**Slide 7 – Stow and Secure**

Stowing your gear in the trunk serves several purposes. The first is that it is safer in a crash. Purses and backpacks have been known to fly forward in a crash with enough force to injure or kill occupants. The second is that it keeps you from reaching for your cell phone when it rings or you receive a text message.

If you can't store in the trunk then silence your cell phone and put your purse or backpack on the floor in the back seat out of reach so you can concentrate on driving and not on who is sending you messages.



Slide 8 - Enter and Adjust [Watch video]

Students should watch the video and list what the driver does to adjust her surroundings while getting ready to drive.

- From your reading and discussion does she leave anything out?
- Does she do any of the steps out of order?
- Why is it important to do these steps for every drive?

**Slide 9 – Sheldon’s seat belt**

Even though this is humorous it is important to note that Sheldon fastens his seatbelt before he turns the key. Why should that matter? Many parents and young adult drivers start their car and get it moving and then click the seat belt. They also have a habit of taking it off before the car comes to a stop. Why do you think doing this is a bad idea?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayuoZiQgXQs>

From: Big Bang Theory on CBS, Season 2, Episode 5 – “Sheldon Driving Simulator”

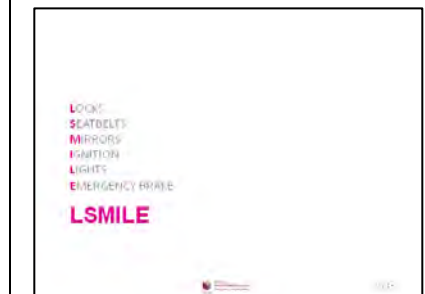
**Slide 10 – PEP Activity**







This desk is your car (Pretend it is a smart car). After what you have seen and talked about walk through the steps of getting ready to drive.

Remember approach, prepare, stow, enter and adjust.

**Slide 11 – LSMILE**

LOCKS
SEATBELTS
MIRRORS
IGNITION
LIGHTS
EMERGENCY BRAKE



<p>Slide 12 – Locks</p> <p>Even though you might live in a more rural part of the state you need to develop the habit of locking your doors when you get into the car. Locking your doors keeps out the people you don't want in your car and it helps keep the doors closed in the event of a crash.</p>	<p>Locks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should I lock my doors right after I get into the car? • How can locked doors help in the event of a crash? 
<p>Slide 13 – Seat and Seltbelt</p> <p>Adjust the seat and then click your belt. If you put your belt on before you adjust your seat it can be uncomfortable and not adjusted properly.</p>	<p>Seat and Seatbelt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should you adjust your seat before putting on your seatbelt? • How should you adjust your head restraint for greatest protection? 
<p>Slide 14 – Why Wear Seatbelts? [Watch video]</p> <p>During this video, find 5 advantages you and your passengers will have when you're properly belted. After watching the video, discuss them with your partner and then share with the class during discussion. What do you think you can do to increase seatbelt usage for you and your classmates?</p>	<p>Why Wear Seatbelts?</p> 
<p>Slide 15 – Mirrors</p> <p>Mirrors should be adjusted after the seat is set. Question--why should you do this in this order? More will be said about mirror setting but there are numerous ways to set the mirrors. The traditional, enhanced and BGE settings</p>	<p>Mirrors</p> <p>Modified Mirror Settings</p> 
<p>Slide 16 – Adjust the left side mirrors out slightly</p> <p>Modern Setting: Tilt your head to the left & move the mirror outward to see the same bit of your car.</p>	<p>Adjust the side mirrors out slightly</p>  <p>Modern Setting</p> <p>Tilt your head to the left & move the mirror outward to see the same bit of your car.</p> 

Slide 17 – Adjust the right side mirrors out slightly

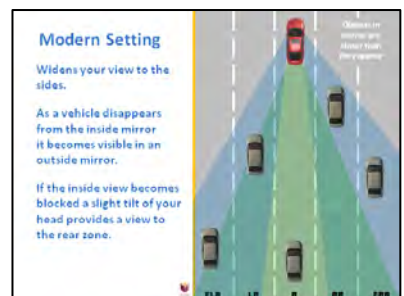
Modern Setting: Follow the same sequence to adjust the right outside rear view mirror: tilt head, see a bit of the car, then sit up straight.

**Slide 18 – Modern Mirror Setting**

When you sit up you won't see the sides of your car. The smaller overlap widens your view, reduces the size of the blindspots on both sides of the car and reduces nighttime glare.

**Slide 19 – Modern Setting View**

Widens your view to the sides. As a vehicle disappears from the inside mirror it becomes visible in an outside mirror. If the inside view becomes blocked a slight tilt of your head provides a view to the rear zone.

**Slide 20 – Disadvantage of the Modern Setting**

Still have blindspots on both sides of your car. If you don't see something in the inside or an outside mirror, the blindspot may be occupied.

**Slide 21 – Blindspots**

Blindspots are smaller, but a lot can still be hidden!



Slide 22 – Blindspots

Door posts or roof pillars can block your view of the blindspot and keep you from getting good information about the condition of the roadway next to your car. Look around door posts and pillars.

**Slides 23 and 24 – Ignition**

Many things happen at this stage,

1. Starting the car is just the first.
2. When starting the car make sure that all of the warning and indicator lights go out. At this point the students should do the in-class worksheet that shows all the various icons that might show up on their vehicle dashboard
3. Adjust your climate control settings (heater, defroster, rear window defroster, radio, iPod, CD player, windshield wipers), so you don't have to do that during your drive.

**Slide 25 – Lights**

Driving with your lights on during the day increases your visibility to other drivers by up to 9/10ths of a mile. It gives other drivers time to see you if they wish to pass and also see you so they don't pull out in front of you. Get in the habit of turning your lights on and also turning them off when you get ready to leave your car.

**Slide 26 – E-brake (parking brake)**

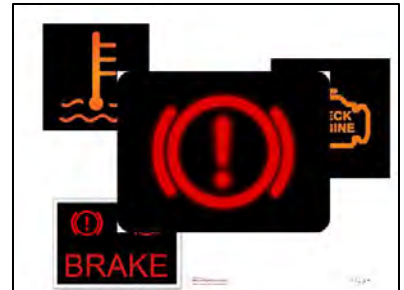
Foot on brake, shift to driver or reverse, release the parking brake and drive. IT is the last procedural element of the preparing to drive.



Slides 27- 31 – Starting the Car

Dash Lights at Startup

Warning Lights



Updated April 24, 2013